

DESCRIPCION DETALLADA DE DOS ESPECIES RARAS DE VENEZUELA

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El presente trabajo consta de dos descripciones de especies raras, pero ya publicadas, aunque con datos incompletos. Por tratarse de especies de gran valor ornamental, me pareció oportuno complementar las descripciones originales con datos obtenidos gracias a nuevas colecciones. En el caso de *Alloplectus deltoideus*, la descripción original carecía de información sobre la corola.

Alloplectus deltoideus Morton, Fieldiana: Bot. 28 (3): 521. 1953.
(Fig. 1).

The original collection of *Steyermark 60170* from Soropán-tepui, Edo. Bolívar, 15 Nov. 1944, was based upon a plant without a corolla. A recent and second collection of this species was made from good flowering material with the following data: along shaded stream slopes at Km. 138.5 al sur de El Dorado, selva húmeda de los árboles con un promedio de 25-30 metros de altura, en el drenaje del río Cuyuní, alt. 1300-1380 m., 22-28 Diciembre 1970, Julian A. Steyermark, G.C.K. & E. Dunsterville 104394.

The following is a complete description of this species, based upon dissection of living material:

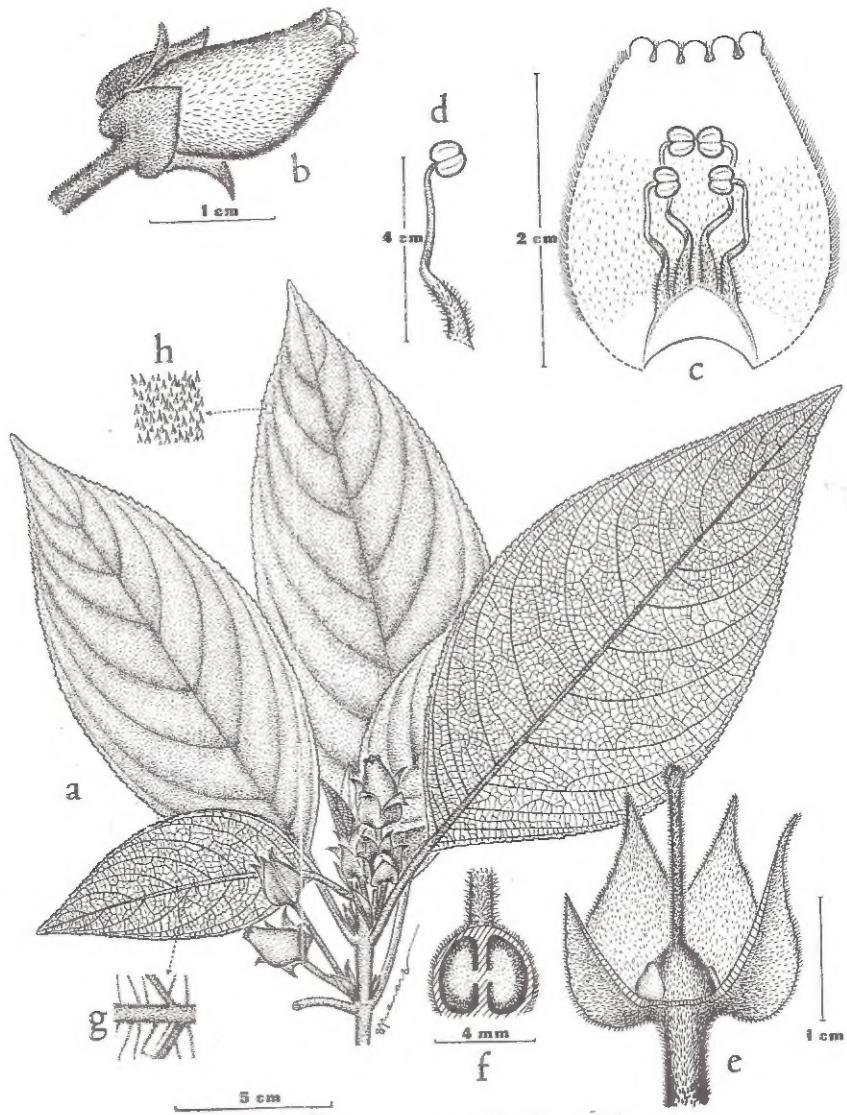


Fig. 1. *Alloplectus deltoideus* Morton

- a — Habit.
- b — Flower.
- c — Corolla and stamens: interior view.
- d — Stamen.
- e — Calyx and gynoecium, showing the two glands opposite the ovary.
- f — Longitudinal section of ovary.
- g — Detail of lower surface of leaf.
- h — Detail of upper surface of leaf.

Plant herbaceous or subherbaceous, 1 m. tall. Stems fleshy, simple and unbranched, 10-11 mm. in diam., gray-buff, terete, densely velutinous towards the apex with gray-buff hairs. Leaves subequal in pairs, the petioles 4-7 cm. long, densely velutinous; leaf-blades thick-membranous, dark green above ornamented with paler dull green color irregularly spread along midrib and lateral nerves, pale grayish-green suffused with lavender on nerves and veins, rugose below with elevated nerves and veins, upper surface finely rugulose with a dense covering of muriculate-papillose few-celled hairs ending in aristate tips, the lower surface with midrib, lateral nerves, and main veins covered by appressed, elongated, colorless hairs, oblong-elliptic to elliptic-ovate, acute to acuminate at apex, acute and non-decurrent at base, 19-22 cm. long, 6-9.5 cm. wide, the margins finely crenulate-serrulate with low rounded, obtuse, ascending teeth 2-3 mm. long by 1-3 mm. wide; lateral nerves 7-8 each side, areuate-ascending, slightly elevated below; tertiary venation rugulose, prominently reticulate.

Inflorescence axillary, pedunculate, the flowers solitary or fasciculate 2 together on erect pedicels, 1.8 cm. long, densely velutinous. Sepals red, foliaceous, broadly ovate, caudate-acuminate, rounded to subcordate at base, densely hirtellous-puberulent both sides, 1.5-2 cm. long, 1-1.2 cm. wide, margins remotely callous-serrulate. Corolla yellow, suboblique in the calyx, urceolate-cylindric, ventrally somewhat ventricose, contracted at the throat, 27 mm. long in dried state, the tube 12-15 mm. wide across the middle section where broadest, externally glabrous at very base, otherwise densely white villous with multicellular, acicular hairs, internally moderately puberulous near base, more sparsely puberulent above middle, becoming glabrescent towards orifice; corolla lobes 5, more or less equal, suborbicular, rounded, 1.5 mm. long, 1.5 mm. wide, ascending, densely villous without, glabrous within. Stamens 4, didymous, included, attached near base of corolla tube; filaments united at base in a flange 6.5 mm. long by 8 mm. wide at base; the flange densely puberulous on ventral surface; outer filaments shorter, 7 mm. long, dilated at base, glabrous except in basal 2 mm. where densely puberulous; inner filaments longer, 10 mm. long, glabrous except in basal 2 mm. where densely puberulous; anthers reniform-subquadrate, rounded or subtruncate above, cordate at base, 2 mm. long (high), 3 mm. wide. Ovary ovoid, 3-3.5 mm. long, densely hirtellous, superior; style 14 mm. long, densely

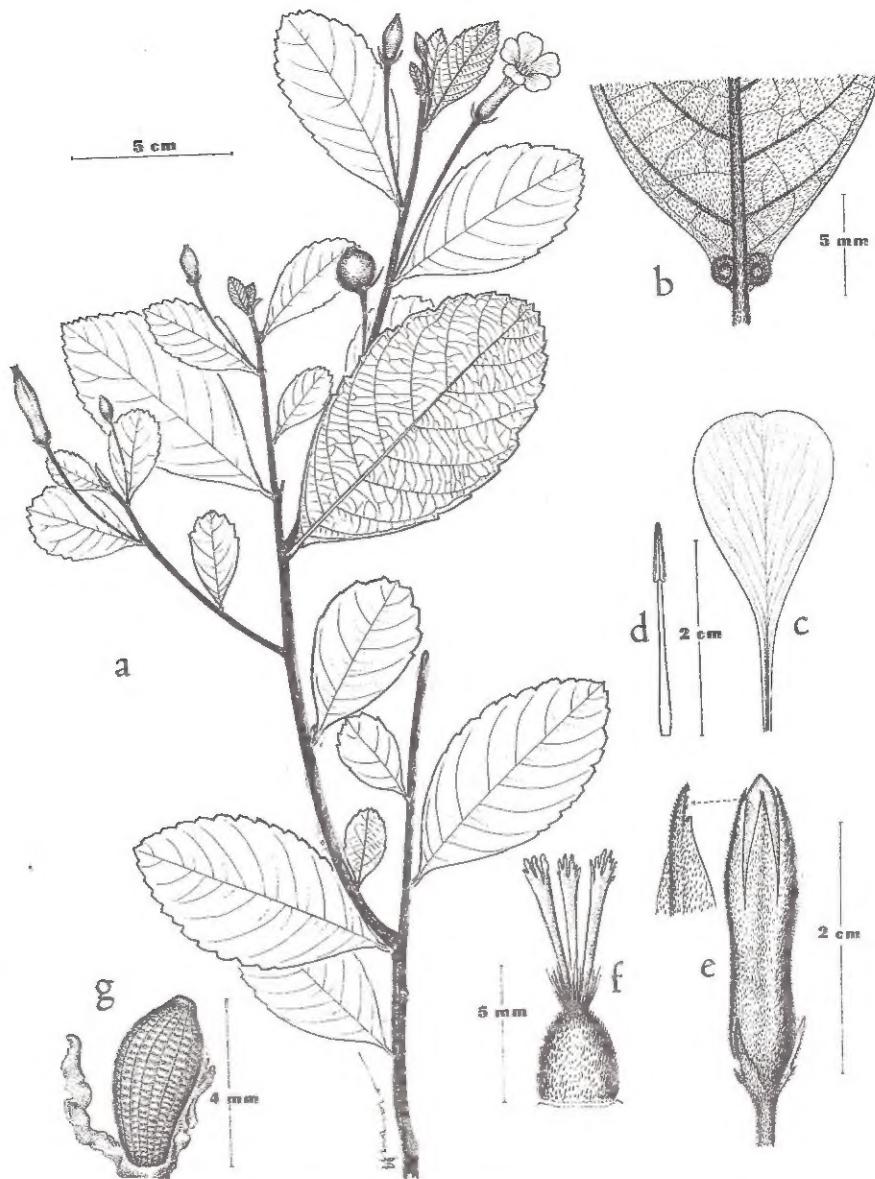


Fig. 2. *Turnera longipes* Triana ex Urban

- a — Habit.
- b — Detail of glands from lower surface of leaf base.
- c — Petal.
- d — Stamen.
- e — Flower bud and detail of apex of calyx lobe.
- f — Gynoecium.
- g — Seed.

hispidulous; stigma with rounded lobes; disk composed of 2 separate glands of unequal size subtending opposite sides of ovary at base of ovary, fleshy, the larger one broadly ovoid, obtuse at apex, about half length of ovary, 2 mm. long, 1.5 broad, the smaller one suborbicular-ovoid, rounded at apex, 1.5 mm. long, 1 mm. broad, both glands glabrous.

This beatiful member of the genus *Alloplectus* merits exceptional interest for introduction into horticulture. The yellow corollas surrounded by showy red sepals, the magenta and lavender petioles and pedicels, and the velvety dark green upper leaf surface with irregular areas of grayish green bordering the nerves, all combine to distinguish the plant. Although the plant was originally described as having the upper leaf surface densely scabridulous, the hairs of living plants observed are of a soft consistency when touched, although they are muriculate and acicular.

Turnera longipes Triana ex Urb. in Eichl. Jahrb. Berl. 2: 99. 1883. (Fig. 2).

This rare species has been recorded in Venezuela in the Catálogo de la Flora Venezolana by Pittier *et al.* (vol. 2: 172. 1947) from only two collections in Estado Carabobo (*Funck & Schlim* 646 from sabanas rocosas cerca de Montalbán; Pittier 8164 from cultivos, valle de Vigirima, cerca de Guacara). An additional collection from Estado Carabobo is *F. Fernández Yépez* 60, cerca de la Colonia Chirguia. From Estado Yaracuy may now be added two additional collections, the first from outside Estado Carabobo: Steyermark & Bunting 97613 from Cerro La Chapa, en la fila norte de Nirgua, alt. 1000 m., 11 Marzo 1967, and same locality, Steyermark & Bunting 105250, 12 Octubre 1971.

This handsome shrub should likewise be introduced into cultivation in gardens, because of its showy orange-red corollas. A detailed description of this species follows:

Shrub 1.5-2 m. tall, the branches minutely puberulous with simple hairs on the upper portions. Leaves petiolate, the petioles 4-6 mm. long, densely appressed-pubescent; leaf-blades elliptic-oblong to oblong-ovate, rounded or obtuse to subacuminate at apex, cunea-

tely narrowed at base, 4-12 cm. long, 2.5-6 cm. wide, biglandular at base of blade on lower surface with orbicular, pubescent glands, margins coarsely crenate-dentate with 6-12 broadly triangular-ovate teeth 4-12 mm. broad, these extending from apex to 1/3 distance to the base of blade, leaf surface sparsely appressed-puberulent and seabridulous, lower surface moderately to densely hirsutulous and manifestly glandular-dotted, the hairs short, the midrib and nerves beneath moderately hirtellous, hairs all simple; lateral nerves 7-10 each side, ascending and terminating at the margins and tips of the teeth, elevated below, impressed above; tertiary veinlet coarsely and prominently reticulate below, elevated.

Inflorescence axillary with solitary flowers; peduncle free from the petiole, ascending-erect, 3.5-4.5 cm. long, densely pilosulous. Bract subtending base of calyx subulate or linear, acute, 4-7 mm. long, 1 mm. broad, margins denticulate with 1 or 2 small or elongated teeth on each side.

Calyx tubular, 20-25 mm. long, the tubular portion 12-15 mm. long, 3-3.5 mm. wide, densely subhirtellous; calyx lobes lanceolate, acuminate or caudate, 5-18 mm. long, 1.5-2 mm. wide, appressed-hirtellous without. Corolla pale orange in lower portion, orange-red above, ca. 30 mm. long, petals broadly spatulate, rounded at apex, the lamina 20-22 mm. long, 8-9 mm. broad, narrowed into a claw 10-11 mm. long. Stamens 5; filaments ligulate, 14 mm. long, glabrous, inserted at base of petals; anthers lanceolate, rounded at base, 6 mm. long. Styles 3, parted at apex into 3-4 divisions. Ovary densely hirsutulous. Capsule suborbicular-ovate, 8-10 mm. long, densely hirtellous. Seeds ellipsoid or narrowly obovoid-ellipsoid, fulvous-brown, 3.8 mm. long, 2 mm. broad, about 15-17-ridged with longitudinal ridges, reticulate between the ridges with an open meshwork, bearing a pale membranous arillate portion attached to base.